



KENTUCKY CORRECTIONAL PSYCHIATRIC CENTER

**P.O. Box 67 - 1612 Dawkins Road
LaGrange, Kentucky 40031
(502) 222-7161**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
Cabinet for Human Resources
Department for Mental Health and
Mental Retardation Services**

March 3, 1988

**Mr. R. Neal Walker
Department of Public Advocacy
Perimeter Park West
Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**

Dear Mr. Walker:

We wish to take this opportunity to clarify certain concerns we have regarding the involvement of members of this staff in pre-trial evaluation cases. In addition, we want to express our concern for what we perceive as inappropriate comments that have been made verbally to a member of our staff.

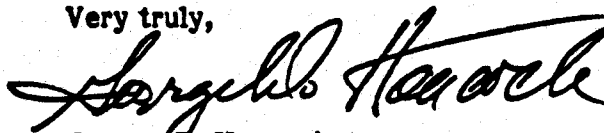
The past two Secretaries of Human Resources have very specifically stated that it is the policy of this Cabinet to decline requests to serve as experts in the preparation of criminal cases either for the prosecution or the defense. In addition, it has been stated that we regard the protection of our objective stance as necessary to maintain our credibility and integrity when serving as a resource to the courts in competency determinations. Therefore, it must be stated that our evaluators will maintain their objectivity, present their recommendations regarding competency and/or criminal responsibility, and provide testimony when called upon to support their written report. We cannot and will not assist the defense or the prosecution in an investigation of matters or the development of mitigating circumstances. In addition, our caseload of pre-trial evaluation requests from the court has reached a record of 1.5 court orders per calendar day and, therefore, we cannot continue to have our evaluators tied up for extended periods of time here at the facility in conference with either the defense or prosecuting attorneys. We are more than happy to be available and to explain the process and information which has gone into our recommendation, however, we must limit the time available for this purpose. We trust that you will understand and appreciate our need to both maintain an objective posture and at the same time provide our services to an ever-increasing referral population.

It has been reported to this office that in your telephone conversation with our director of Medical Records on Tuesday, March 1, 1988, you said, "Are you aware of what is going on in the trial? They are trashing KCPC and Dr. Walker's reputation is at stake as well." We consider such statements as being inappropriate. It is our understanding that your telephone call was to inform us that you were obtaining a court order for certified copies of the patient's record both for yourself and for the court and, therefore, your conversation should have been limited to that request.

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We trust that this communication will clarify our position of objectivity and will in turn serve to assure that dealings between yourself and members of our staff are maintained at a professional level.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George D. Hancock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George D. Hancock
Facility Director